

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 138837
ORIGIN SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PPTE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS STATE 138837

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CGEN

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE FOR YOUR NEW POSITION

ATTENTION: CONSUL GENERAL LAWRENCE

QUESTION: WILL THERE BE ANY RADICAL CHANGES IN PERSONNEL
OR POLICY OF THE PASSPORT OFFICE?
ANSWER: NO CHANGES ARE CONTEMPLATED AT THIS TIME.

QUESTION: WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DOES MR. LOREN E. LAWRENCE
HAVE FOR THIS POSITION?
ANSWER: MR. LAWRENCE IS ONE OF THE MOST EXPERIENCED
CONSULAR OFFICERS IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE. HE IS
NOW CONSUL GENERAL OF ONE OF OUR LARGEST
CONSULAR SECTIONS ABROAD (LONDON). BEFORE THAT
HE WAS DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE BUREAU OF
SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS, WHICH HAS SUPER-
VISORY RESPONSIBILITY OVER THE PASSPORT
OFFICE.

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QUESTION: WHY DID THE DEPARTMENT DECLINE TO SEEK AN
EXTENSION FOR MISS KNIGHT TO REMAIN AS DIRECTOR
OF THE PASSPORT OFFICE THIS YEAR?
ANSWER: THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT FEEL JUSTIFIED IN DOING

SO IN LIGHT OF THE AVAILABILITY FOR ASSIGNMENT
OF A NUMBER OF QUALIFIED SENIOR DEPARTMENTAL

EMPLOYEES.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE ALLEGATIONS THAT THIS IS A WAY TO "GET BACK" AT FRANCES KNIGHT BECAUSE OF HER INDEPENDENCE AND FORTHRIGHT ATTITUDE?

ANSWER: THERE IS NOTHING OF THIS INVOLVED. MISS KNIGHT HAS A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE. HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PASSPORT OPERATIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT ARE WIDELY KNOWN AND HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

QUESTION: WHEN WILL MISS KNIGHT LEAVE THE PASSPORT OFFICE?

ANSWER: MISS KNIGHT'S RETIREMENT TAKES EFFECT THE 31ST OF JULY AND SHE HAS BEEN SO NOTIFIED. MR. LAWRENCE, HER SUCCESSOR, IS EXPECTED TO ASSUME THE DUTIES AS DIRECTOR OF THE PASSPORT OFFICE ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 1.

QUESTION: DOES THIS APPOINTMENT REQUIRE CONFIRMATION BY THE SENATE?

ANSWER: NO, THIS IS A ROUTINE ASSIGNMENT TO A CAREER DEPARTMENT OF STATE POSITION.

QUESTION: WHY IS THE DEPARTMENT FILLING THIS POSITION, WHICH HAS BEEN TRADITIONALLY FILLED WITH A WOMAN, WITH A MAN? DOESN'T IT GO AGAINST THE DEPARTMENT'S AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN?
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ANSWER: NO, THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES STRONGLY IN PLACING AS MANY QUALIFIED WOMEN IN HIGH POSITIONS AS POSSIBLE, BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN EARMARKING A JOB BY SEX. MR. LAWRENCE IS THE MOST QUALIFIED PERSON AVAILABLE FOR THIS POSITION. CHRISTOPHER

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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